

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 GSA-02 STR-07

OPR-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 /092 W

-----114541 251622Z /43

P 251515Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9994

INFO AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 5369

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, CG

SUBJECT: POST-KOLWEZI GECAMINES PROSPECTS

REF: A) LUBUMBASHI 0546, B) LUBUMBASHI 0556, C) LUBUMBASHI 0558

D) STATE 132598, E) KINSHASA 5328

1. IBRD INFO THAT THERE IS NO MAJOR DAMAGE TO GECAMINES' KOLWEZI FACILITY IS CONSISTENT WITH THAT AVAILABLE TO US (REF E). ALSO, WE AGREE WITH IBRD OFFICIALS THAT KEY TO RESUMPTION OF PRODUCTION AT GECAMINES' FACILITIES WILL BE RETURN OF EXPATRIATE PERSONNEL. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF REFS B AND C AND OTHER REPORTS AVAILABLE TO US AS TO GENERAL CONDITIONSS IN KOLWEZI, AND BECAUSE ALMOST ALL KOLWEZI EXPATRIATE PERSONNEL HAVE DEPARTED ZAIRE, WE BELIEVE IBRD'S PREDICTION THAT PRODUCTION WILL RESUME AT KOLWEZI IN TWO TO THREE MONTHS IS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC. WE HOPE TO BE PROVEN WRONG, BUT BELIEVE THAT FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROJECTIONS WE SHOULD NOT ASSUME ANY PRODUCTION FROM KOLWEZI FOR REMAINDER OF 1978. FURTHERMORE, WHEN PRODUCTION DOES RESUME, THERE WILL BE A SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS DELAY BEFORE ZAIRE RECEIVES ANY RECEIPTS FROM PRODUCTION BECAUSE OF NECESSITY TO REFILL PIPELINE FROM KOLWEZI TO PORTS OF EMBARCATION.

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2. FINALLY, REF E ASSUMES THAT PRODUCTION AT GECAMINES' REMAINING FACILITIES IN SHABA WILL CONTINUE AT ALMOST NORMAL LEVELS. THIS IS PRESENTLY THE CASE BUT IT MAY BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC AS EXPATRIATE PERSONNEL IN SHABA ARE QUITE NERVOUS, AND THERE COULD BE WHOLESAL DEPARTURE IF SECURITY SITUATION WERE TO DETERIORATE FURTHER. EVEN UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS SOME EXPATRIATE COMPANIES, I.E. IBM, ARE WITHDRAWING AT LEAST SOME OF

THEIR PERSONNEL FROM THE SHABA REGION.
CUTLER

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